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Foreign Crops and MARKETS

VOLUME 56 NUMBER 22

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D.C.

LATE NEWS

As a result of exceptionally favorable weather in the United Kingdom, milk production during the next three weeks is expected to be more than sufficient to meet allowances. The Ministry of Food therefore recently decided to remove restrictions on the amount of milk retailers may sell to registered consumers and catering establishments in the period May 16 to June 5. Control of supplies will be resumed on June 6.

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A record cotton crop of 20,000 bales was harvested in El Salvador in 1947-48. Despite its size, however, practically the entire crop has been sold to local mills and those in Guatemala.

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The first official estimate placed the 1947-48 cotton crop in Argentina at 358,000 bales (of 500 pounds gross) compared with a first estimate of 360,000 bales last year and a final estimate of 334,000.

MEAT PRODUCTION IN SPECIFIED COUNTRIES INCREASED IN 1947 1/

Meat production in the principal livestock countries of the world, exclusive of the Far East, in 1947 was estimated at 65.9 billion pounds, according to the most recently available data. This is above the preceding year by 4.0 billion pounds or 6 percent, and is within 0.4 billion pounds of the 1934-38 five-year average of 66.3 billion pounds.

The most significant increases in meat production in 1947 occurred in the continental countries of Europe. Last summer's drought, together with an already critical feed situation in western and central Europe, resulted in a considerable liquidation of livestock and a substantial increase in meat production. Conversely, meat production in eastern Europe was augmented by relatively good feed grain crops in 1947.

Moderate production gains also took place in the United States, Argentina, Brazil, Australia, New Zealand and the Soviet Union. In the United States, short feed supplies, strong demand and high prices for meat combined to encourage large marketings of meat animals. The increase in 1947 meat output was accompanied by a 2.6 million decrease in cattle inventories and declines in nearly all other categories of meat animals. In Argentina, and to a lesser degree in Brazil, higher prices due to strong domestic and export demand increased marketing and total meat output in 1947 compared with 1946. Australia and New Zealand, because of improved grazing conditions and higher export prices also increased their production. Favorable crop conditions in the Soviet Union during 1947 were reflected in an increased meat output for the year.

Decreases in meat production were evidenced principally in the United Kingdom, Eire, Norway, Chile, Uruguay, and Canada. In the United Kingdom, a general shortage of feed and reduced numbers of breeding animals, particularly of sheep and hogs, have led to a further decrease in meat output. Production in Eire also declined in 1947, but continued above the 1934-38 average. Norway's output was about one-fifth below the five-year average.

Meat production in Canada was below that of 1946, but somewhat above prewar. High feed costs during the latter part of the year and packing house strikes in the fall delayed marketings and reduced the 1947 production. In Chile meat output declined, due to increasing prices and lack of foreign exchange for the importation of cattle. In Uruguay slaughter was down because of heavy losses in the 1943 drought of calves which would have been marketed as four-year olds in 1947.

The large meat production in 1947 has tended to retard the building of livestock herds and flocks and has generally slowed up restoration of numbers to prewar levels in many countries. The increase in population in many countries has made a heavy drain on the livestock resources. For the livestock industry to recover its prewar status and meet normal consumption requirements, most countries will require better-than-average crop and pasture conditions and supplies of feed for several years to come.

1/ A more extensive statement can be obtained from the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations.

(Continued on Page 411; Table follows)

MEAT 1/: Preliminary estimate of production of beef and veal, pork, mutton and lamb, and total meats in specified countries in 1947, with comparisons.

Country	Beef and Veal			Pork (excluding lard)			Mutton and Lamb			Total 2/		
	Average 1934-38	1946	1947	Average 1934-38	1946	1947	Average 1934-38	1946	1947	Average 1934-38	1946	1947
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
North America:												
Canada 3/	735	1,185	1,089	621	994	972	61	71	67	1,417	2,250	2,128
Mexico	492	614	595	167	243	265	14	18	18	698	902	904
United States 3/	7,974	10,818	12,000	7,337	11,173	10,500	871	970	800	16,182	22,961	23,300
Cuba 4/	269	311	315	38	38	43	2	2	2	309	351	360
Europe:												
Austria 5/	231	145	170	359	150	210	6/ 18	6/ 2	6/ 5	617	300	390
Belgium	304	179	224	367	210	225	7	10	7	693	420	496
Bulgaria 7/	105	63	85	134	83	95	88	51	80	337	212	280
Czechoslovakia 8/	411	377	520	480	300	424	6	4	3	912	703	975
Denmark	316	365	430	675	432	449	6	10	9	1,006	829	905
Eire	103	190	180	196	135	135	37	55	45	336	380	360
Finland	139	86	95	104	56	88	11	10	12	254	160	220
France	1,947	1,654	1,800	1,419	859	1,040	6/ 218	6/ 110	6/ 130	3,684	2,701	3,115
Germany 9/	1,300	850	950	2,140	770	790	40	38	40	3,510	1,675	1,790
Greece 5/	32	25	30	27	25	30	6/ 136	6/ 105	6/ 110	195	155	170
Hungary 10/	121	--	--	386	--	--	22	--	--	538	300	500
Italy	732	11/ 479	11/ 545	675	11/ 475	11/ 585	6/ 108	6/11/ 82	6/11/90	1,542	11/1,066	11/1,253
Netherlands	308	196	245	548	172	200	20	9	5	894	386	467
Norway 11/	94	108	95	89	44	44	32	31	31	223	195	178
Poland 12/	528	195	310	1,032	495	780	22	8	10	1,598	705	1,105
Rumania	247	--	--	222	--	--	6/ 188	--	--	651		
Sweden 3/	292	273	308	321	309	308	6/ 8	6/ 10	6/ 9	649	622	662
Switzerland	217	154	184	190	94	103	4	3	3	419	259	298
United Kingdom	1,380	1,281	1,143	890	367	300	455	341	257	2,725	1,989	1,700
Yugoslavia	243	--	--	476	--	--	6/ 147	--	--	888		
Soviet Union 13/	2,855	--	--	3,459	--	--	918	--	--	7,292		
South America:												
Argentina 14/	3,838	3,866	4,630	243	421	270	378	742	780	4,459	5,029	5,680
Brazil 15/	1,821	1,622	1,700	487	507	510	15	49	50	2,331	2,204	2,285
Chile	235	285	261	39	53	52	72	103	85	349	442	400
Paraguay	15/ 87	200	220	--	--	--	--	--	--	15/ 87	200	220
Uruguay 15/	495	418	342	14	31	23	62	51	45	571	500	410
Africa:												
Union of South Africa	421	627	635	64	62	70	6/ 186	6/ 194	6/ 185	671	883	880
Oceania:												
Australia	11/1,190	981	1,102	11/ 195	240	206	11/ 709	716	718	11/2,094	1,937	2,026
New Zealand 16/	365	395	428	106	83	85	553	697	703	1,024	1,175	1,216

1/ Carcass meat basis - excludes edible offal and lard. 2/ Includes other meats, such as horse and goat meat. Excludes offal, rabbit and poultry meat. 3/ Averages for years 1935-1939. 4/ Averages for years 1936-1940. 5/ Averages for years 1933-1937. 6/ Includes goat meat. 7/ Averages for years 1935-1938. Includes Southern Dobrudja in 1946 and 1947. 8/ Year 1936 only for prewar. Excludes Sub-Carpathian Russia. 9/ Bizone (U.S. - U.K.) only. 10/ Averages for years 1936-1938. 11/ Year beginning July 1. 12/ Data for 1946 and 1947 relate to territory within present boundaries. 13/ Year 1938. 14/ Excludes farm production of pork for farm consumption. 15/ Excludes farm production. 16/ Year beginning June 1 for years 1936-1938; year beginning October 1 of preceding year for years 1946 and 1947.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated from official statistics, United States Foreign Service reports, and other information. Data relate to prewar boundaries, unless otherwise noted.

COMMODITY DEVELOPMENTS

GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS, AND FEEDS

ECUADORAN RICE HARVEST REDUCED

The 1948 rice crop of Ecuador, the main part of which is now being harvested, is substantially smaller than that of a year ago. A tentative estimate places the harvest at 7,450,000 bushels (220 million pounds milled) compared with 8,945,000 bushels (260 million pounds) in 1947. Lack of rainfall during the early part of the season reduced the yields per acre, but rains in April brightened prospects for a better crop than was at first expected.

Exports during the calendar year 1948 are forecast by the trade at approximately 130 million pounds. During the first quarter, 32 million pounds were exported, all from carry-over stocks of the 1947 crop. These exports went to Bolivia, Colombia, Cuba, Panama, Peru and Venezuela.

ECUADOR: Rice exports by country, average 1937-41, annual 1943-1947.

Country of destination	Average 1937-41	1943	1944	1945	1946 a/	1947 a/
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
Cuba	2	81	88	55	46	12
Peru	13	20	29	0	0	0
Venezuela	6	0	17	4	17	49
Colombia	4	b/	0	b/	2	13
Panama	2	b/	2	b/	5	4
Jamaica	0	0	0	0	16	7
Philippines	0	0	0	0	20	0
India	0	0	0	0	0	38
Dominican Republic	0	0	0	0	0	5
Other countries	4	4	6	6	c/ 24	9
Total	31	105	142	65	130	137

Compiled from official statistics.
a/ Preliminary. b/ Less than 500,000 pounds. c/ Includes 6 million pounds to Mexico, and 5 million to Greece.

(Continued on Page 411)

TROPICAL PRODUCTS

INDIA'S 1948 TEA PRODUCTION LARGER

Tea production in the Indian Union during 1948 is forecast at 550 million pounds, or about 10 million pounds more than for the previous season. No forecast is available for Pakistan, which before the division of India in August 1947, accounted for about 14 percent of that country's total tea production. Output during 1947 for all India, including Pakistan, is placed at 586 million pounds. Of this total, South India produced 98 million pounds, despite shortage of fertilizer and blister blight damage.

India's tea export quota from April 1, 1948, to March 31, 1949 has been set at 430 million pounds, which would leave approximately 120 million pounds for domestic consumption. The United Kingdom Ministry of Food is reported to have agreed to buy 300 million pounds at an average price of Rs. 1-5-6 per pound (about 40.6 cents U. S. Currency). In addition, it is expected that the United Kingdom will purchase about 25 million pounds of tea in Pakistan during 1948.

SAN THOMÉ'S CACAO PRODUCTION LOWER

Production of cacao beans on the Portuguese Islands of San Thomé and Principe during 1948, forecast by the trade at 17.6 million pounds, is somewhat below average production of 20 million pounds for the past 3 years. Only about 6.8 million pounds of cacao beans, including a carry-over of 2.2 million pounds from the previous crop, will be available for export between now and November 1948, however, as the main harvest in San Thomé and Principe occurs from October through December. The intermediate crop, estimated at 4.6 million pounds, is harvested in April and May.

Prior to World War II, exports of cacao beans from San Thomé and Principe were practically all handled by Portuguese firms in Portugal, which imported the beans into Portugal for re-export to the countries of destination. During the war, however, most of the cacao was shipped directly from the Colony to the consuming country, although sales were made through Lisbon firms. It now appears that the former practice of exporting cacao to Portugal for re-export will be resumed as about 50 percent of the cacao exports during 1946 and 1947 were shipped through Lisbon.

During the war years, very little cacao from San Thomé and Principe was exported to the United States, as other countries paid more than United States ceiling prices. In 1947, however, the United States imported over 7 million pounds of beans from the Islands.

FRUITS, VEGETABLES AND NUTS

IMPORTS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA APPLES WIDELY DISTRIBUTED

A total of 1,768 cars of British Columbia apples were exported to the United States through March 19 this season. These shipments were distributed among 35 States but Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Texas, Michigan, and Missouri with a combined total of 1,213 cars were by far the largest receivers.

The McIntosh variety totaling 459 cars led all others, followed by Jonathan, 396 cars; Delicious, 359 cars; Red Delicious; 272 cars, and Romes, 106 cars. There were also a few cars of Staymans, Grimes, and others including 84 cars of mixed varieties.

BRITISH COLUMBIA APPLES: Exports to U. S. markets by variety and State of destination. 1947-48 (through March 19)

State	McIntosh	Delicious	Delicious	Jonathan	Rome	Stayman	Grimes	Other	Mixed	Total
	cars	cars	cars	cars	cars	cars	cars	cars	cars	cars
Ala...	2	6	20		1				1	30
Ark...			4		1					5
Calif.	5	3		2					2	12
Colo..		3	2	1					1	7
Fla...	7	10	2						6	25
Ga....	2	1	1			16	2	1	3	26
Ill...	158	50	83	169	63	1		4	8	536
Ind...	3	9	12	13	1			1	1	40
Iowa..	4	12	24	16	1		2	4	3	68
Kans..	1	8		7					5	21
Ky....	3	6	4							13
La....		3	9						1	13
Maine.	5									5
Mass..	41	2	1					1		45
Minn..	30	33	7	47	6	2	1	3	14	143
Mich..	32	13	31	17	2			2	3	100
Miss..	1	4	13						1	19
Mo....		1	9	63	2		4		2	81
Mont..			1							1
N. C..		3	1							4
N. D..	1	2	2					9		14
Neb...		7	2	8		1	2		5	25
N. J..	5		1							6
N. Y..	31	1	6					2	1	41
Ohio..	5	2	11		5				1	24
Okla..	2	9	6	1		1			1	20
Penn..	14	4	12			3		1	1	35
S. C..	8		3	3				2		16
S. D..		1	4	1				1	2	9
Tenn..	2	3	16				2			23
Texas.	1	45	16	23	6	10			14	115
Wisc..	93	30	54	23	18	7	3	3	7	238
Vt....	3								1	4
Wyo...		1	1							2
W. Va.			1				1			2
Total	459	272	359	396	106	41	17	34	84	1,768

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations
Source: British Columbia Tree Fruits, Ltd.

COTTON AND OTHER FIBER

CZECHOSLOVAKIN FLAX AREA DECREASES

The flax area in Czechoslovakia in 1947 was 46,000 acres, or 3,700 acres less than in the preceding year and only 65 percent of the 1947 goal of 70,400 acres.

Approximately 14,300,000 pounds of fiber were produced with an average yield of 312 pounds per acre. Production in 1946 was 15,400,000 pounds with an average yield of 309 pounds per acre. The 1932-36 average area harvested was 26,200 acres with an average production of 12,700,000 pounds of fiber. The average yield per acre during these years ranged from 491 to 570 pounds. The recent crops have been disappointing because of the effect of drought which not only reduced the number of stalks but also resulted in unusually short stalks.

Czechoslovakia: Flax fiber area and production, 1946 and 1947, and plan for 1948.

Regions	1946		1947		Plan for 1948	
	Acres	1,000 pounds	Acres	1,000 pounds	Acres	1,000 pounds
Bohemia	22,100	7,100	22,200	6,480	a/ 44,500	-
Moravia and Silesia	14,000	4,380	13,100	4,040	b/	-
Slovakia	13,600	3,880	10,700	3,780	24,700	-
Total	49,700	15,360	46,000	14,300	69,200	-

a/ Includes Moravia and Silesia. b/ Included with Bohemia.
Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Compiled from foreign service reports.

The goal for 1948 has been set at nearly 70,000 acres again with the hope of reducing the imports of fiber required to meet the domestic needs. More mechanization is expected to counteract to some extent the shortage of labor. Cooperative harvesting machines and flax-retting houses have been included in plans for handling the crop. In addition to appeals for greater production the Government has increased the quantity of finished flax products offered for retted flax as an incentive to farmers. Farmers who deliver retted flax will receive 30 percent of its value in finished goods instead of last year's rate of 15 percent, and for unretted flax they will receive 20 percent in goods. Also, rewards have been promised to farmers for increasing their production. Actual plantings in 1948 are not expected to reach the goal, however, principally because of discouragement from severe losses in 1947 resulting from unfavorable weather during both the growing and retting seasons.

Czechoslovakia consumes most of the domestic supply of flax, but that supply fulfills only about 20 to 25 percent of the requirements. Prior to World War II, the largest quantities of imported flax were from Poland, Lithuania, and the Soviet Union, but Belgium is now the chief source of supply. A total of 23,267,000 pounds of flax fiber, tow, and waste was imported in 1947, and 16,416,000 pounds or 71 percent of it was Belgian flax. The Netherlands furnished 3,570,000 pounds, or 15 percent, Egypt furnished 2,456,000 pounds, or 11 percent, and France, Germany, Great Britain, and Ireland furnished the remaining 825,000 pounds of fiber and tow. Exports in 1947 consisted of 115,000 pounds of flax waste to Austria, Sweden, and Belgium.

CZECHOSLOVAKIAN HEMP PRODUCTION DECREASES

Hemp production in Czechoslovakia in 1947 is estimated at 5.4 million pounds, compared with 7.1 million in 1946 and an annual average of 12.7 million during the prewar years 1932-36.

The area harvested in 1947 was 14,000 acres, or 1,200 acres less than in 1946 and 4,500 less than the 5-year annual average of 18,500 acres during 1932-36. However, the prewar average includes some acreage in Ruthenia which is not included in the postwar figures. The severe drought during the past year lowered the average yield to less than 390 pounds per acre. The average yield per acre before the war ranged from 446 pounds in 1931 to a peak of 732 pounds in 1934. Most of the hemp fiber is produced in Slovakia.

Imports of hemp in 1947 included 3.3 million pounds of straw, 220,000 pounds of scutched fiber, and 6.2 million pounds of tow. Exports included approximately 120,000 pounds of tow and 80,000 pounds of waste. Domestic production of hemp fiber is usually consumed locally. Imports were almost entirely from Italy and Yugoslavia, and exports were shipped only to Hungary.

(Continued on Page 407)

TOBACCO

NEW ZEALAND TOBACCO PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION AT RECORD LEVEL

New Zealand's production of leaf tobacco and consumption of tobacco products is reported to be at record levels, but imports of leaf have been curtailed somewhat.

The country's 1947-48 leaf production, composed principally of flue-cured and light air-cured types, has been forecast at 5,500,000 pounds of good-quality tobacco as compared with 4,073,000 in 1946-47 and 3,275,000 for the 5-year average (1941-42 through 1945-46) annual production. Prices for the 1947-48 crop are unchanged from those paid for the output of the preceding year, when the basic average price to growers was $0.35 per pound for flue-cured tobacco, and $0.31 per pound for air-cured.

Imports of leaf into New Zealand during 1946, largely flue-cured leaf from the United States, totaled 6,806,000 pounds, as compared with the 1941-45 average of 4,834,000 pounds. Data on 1947 imports are not available, but imports for the six months, January to June, 1947, of only 2,450,000 pounds indicate a substantial reduction from the previous year.

Leaf released to manufacturers from bonded warehouses in 1946 totaled slightly over 7,700,000 pounds, composed of about 2,800,000 pounds of domestic leaf, and 4,900,000 pounds of imported leaf, indicates the highest consumption on record, and it is believed that consumption in 1947 might have continued at about the 1946 level. Manufacturers are required to use a minimum of 30 percent domestic leaf, but in view of increased leaf production, the consumption of domestic leaf is being maintained substantially above the 30 percent minimum.

FRENCH MOROCCO TOBACCO PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION AT HIGH LEVEL

Production and consumption of tobacco in French Morocco during 1947 was believed to have exceeded previous years. Imports were also at a record level.

Final reports on Morocco's 1947 tobacco production have not been made public, but it is reported that the acreage harvested was substantially the same as in 1946 when production totaled 3,527,000 pounds, as compared with the average 1941-45 production of 2,394,000 pounds. The country's leaf output provides less than half of consumption requirements, and only insignificant quantities of leaf are exported.

Imports of leaf which, in normal years are largely from the United States, Algeria, the Philippines, and certain Latin American countries, account for more than half of the supply consumed in the country. A substantial portion of products consumed are imported. Imports of leaf and products in 1947 totaled 6,922,000 pounds, as compared with 3,785,000 in 1946 and the 5-year (1941-45) average of 3,004,000 pounds.

MARKETING OF GREEK TOBACCO DELAYED

Uncertainty regarding prices to farmers for Greece's 1947 tobacco crop has continued and marketings to mid-May are reported at less than 5 percent of the 1947 production.

Normally, more than half of the preceding year's output is sold by May 15. On April 8, 1948, the Greek Government guaranteed a price, in drachma, to growers for leaf from the 1947 crop at 155 times the prewar level, or slightly above the 1946 price. (See Foreign Crops and Markets, Vol. 56, No. 16, of April 19, 1948). Actual prices to be paid growers for the 1947 crop had not been announced by May 13, as a result in delays in determining the prewar base price for different producing districts.

COTTON AND OTHER FIBER

(Continued from Page 406)

COTTON-PRICE QUOTATIONS ON FOREIGN MARKETS

The following table shows certain cotton-price quotations on foreign markets, converted at current rates of exchange:

COTTON: Spot prices in certain foreign markets, and the U. S. gulf-port average

Market location, kind, and quality	Date 1948	Unit of weight	Unit of currency	Price in foreign currency	Equivalent U.S. cents per pound
Alexandria		Kantar			
Ashmouni, Good	5-20	99.05 lbs.	Tallari	79.50	66.33
Ashmouni, F.G.F	"	"	"	(not quoted)	
Giza 7, Good	"	"	"	(not quoted)	
Giza 7, F.G.F	"	"	"	(not quoted)	
Karnak, Good	"	"	"	108.00	90.11
Karnak, F.G.F	"	"	"	(not quoted)	
Bombay		Candy			
Jarila, Fine	"	784 lbs.	Rupee	750.00	28.86
Broach, Fine	"	"	"	925.00	35.59
Sind American, Fine	"	"	"	(not quoted)	
Punjab " 289-F, Fine	"	"	"	(not quoted)	
Kampala, East African	"	"	"	(not available)	
Buenos Aires		Metric ton			
Type B	5-21	2204.6 lbs.	Peso	3,100.00	41.87
Lima		Sp. quintal			
Tanguis, Type 5	5-20	101.4 lbs.	Sol	230.00	34.89
Pima, Type 1	"			(not quoted)	
Recife		Arroba			
Mata, Type 5	5-21	33.07 lbs.	Cruzeiro	155.00	25.50
Sertao, Type 5	"	"	"	165.00	27.15
Sao Paulo					
Sao Paulo, Type 5	"	"	"	187.50	30.85
Torreon		Sp. quintal			
Middling, 15/16"	"	101.4 lbs.	Peso	167.00	33.88
Houston-Galveston-New Orleans Av., Mid. 15/16"	"	Pound	Cent	XXXXXXX	38.02

Quotations of foreign markets reported by cable. U. S. quotations from designated spot markets.

FATS AND OILS

NETHERLANDS INDIES COPRA SHIPMENTS INCREASING [1]

The Netherlands Indies exported 18,897 long tons of copra (all to the Netherlands) during April. This was the largest monthly shipments since April 1947 and brings the four-month total to 53,718 tons compared with 63,303 in the same months a year ago. These figures do not include unrecorded shipments to Singapore. The forecast for May and June exports is 22,600 and 26,600 tons, respectively.

April copra production in East Indonesia was 21,160 and in West Borneo 2,658 tons. Month-end stocks, including 2,067 in Java, amounted to 39,565 tons.

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[1] A more extensive statement regarding Far Eastern copra may be obtained from the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations.

Coconut-oil production has not been reported, but more than 2,000 tons of copra went to oil mills. The January-April deliveries totaled 14,588 tons, 35 percent greater than in the corresponding months of last year, but 8 percent less than the October-December 1947 deliveries. There has been no change in copra prices since the first of April.

MALAYAN COPRA EXPORTS LARGER IN FEBRUARY

Malaya's February copra exports of 1,485 long tons were almost double those of the previous month, but only slightly larger than in February 1947. Coconut-oil shipments, however, were only 3,849 tons compared with 4,197 in the same month of last year. January-February imports of copra totaled 11,328 tons and coconut oil 566 tons.

Restrictions on exports of coconut oil and re-exports of copra from Singapore were removed as of May 3, 1948. These commodities can now be shipped from Singapore without restriction to any destination.

Coconut oil and copra of native origin may be exported from the Federation of Malaya only upon proof of export of an equivalent amount to the British Ministry of Food. The Federation Government will also control the export of coconut oil produced from imported copra on the basis of six tons of coconut oil to ten tons of copra.

SOUTH AFRICA HARVESTS LARGE PEANUT AND SUNFLOWER CROPS

Peanut and sunflower-seed production in the Union of South Africa for the 1948 harvest (March-June) are unofficially estimated at 61,650 and 54,600 short tons, respectively. For the past three years, peanut output has more than doubled the production of each previous year, official estimates being 4,850 in 1945; 12,500 in 1946, and 31,500 in 1947.

The 1948 crop was smaller than earlier estimates indicated due to a number of reasons. Many farmers who had not grown peanuts previously were unfamiliar with cultural methods. Peanuts were not planted thickly enough in the row and in harvesting were lifted too early. There was a lack of seed for planting due to inadequate shelling facilities. Some reduction in yield was caused by plant disease, but the principal reason for generally lower average yields was a dry period during February which was followed by approximately two weeks of extensive rains. Rains continued intermittently during the harvest period with the result that a part of the production sprouted or spoiled.

The 1948 sunflower-seed output represents a 290 percent increase over the 14, 000 tons harvested a year ago. This crop has also expanded rapidly in recent years.

The total peanut and sunflower-seed crops are consumed locally. Peanuts crushed for oil in 1947 amounted to approximately 13,500 tons; about 2,100 tons were utilized by roasters, school feeding schemes, and in the form of peanut butter by manufacturers and the remainder was used for seed and feed. Approximately 11,500 tons of sunflower seed were crushed for oil.

The vegetable oilseed crushing industry in South Africa, consisting of 13 oil expressing establishments, crushed a total of 57,000 tons of domestically produced as well as imported oilseed in 1947.

There were no exports of peanuts or sunflower seed or oil in 1947 except for approximately 3,300 tons of peanuts in the shell for planting under the East African agricultural development program which were exchanged for a like amount of Nigerian supplies for crushing. Small quantities of peanuts and oil are imported from Southern Rhodesia.

The Minister of Agriculture fixed the price to the oil expressors for the 1947-48 peanut crop in advance of the growing season (effective March 1, 1948) at £56-10-0 ($226) per ton for shelled peanuts delivered free on rail, but this price may be revised upward to £58-10-0 ($234) in view of the decrease in production (from earlier estimates). The 1946-47 price was £61-0-0 ($244).

The Directorate of Food Supplies and Distribution has been authorized by the Government to purchase any surplus sunflower seed from producers at 23 shillings ($4.60) per bag of 100 pounds for the best quality. This price becomes effective after September 1, 1948. Manufacturers may sell pure oil at 17 s.8d. per imperial gallon ($2.94 per U. S. gallon or 39.2 cents per pound).

Thirteen pneumatic elevators will be installed in the Union this year. These will make possible the handling of a larger peanut crop at very much reduced costs and will permit a more efficient determination of the kernel content. One hundred and fifty shelling machines are being manufactured. A course has been arranged for the instruction of employees in the shelling and grading of peanuts, the use of the machines and apparatus, the rotation of crops, and the treatment of plant diseases.

As long as prices remain as favorable as they are at present, it is not likely that production of oilseed crops will stabilize at the present level. It would appear that production in 1948-49 would be considerably larger than in 1947-48, if weather conditions are favorable. Peanuts and sunflower crops fit quite well with the climate and farming conditions in general in South Africa, and as long as they are more profitable to produce than other crops, they will be grown. Other oilseed crops which are receiving attention and with which experiments are being made are soybean, castor-beans, particularly those produced from dwarf plants, and safflower seed. Considerable quantities of soybeans are at present being planted for hay, but it is hoped that the bean will shortly occupy a more important place in the Union's agriculture. There are fewer factories that can process this type of seed than can handle peanuts, and no attractive price has as yet been offered for large scale production of soybeans.

SOUTHERN RHODESIA'S 1947 PEANUT AND SUNFLOWER-SEED CROPS DOWN

Southern Rhodesia's peanut and sunflower-seed production for 1947 amounted to 3,506 and 1,415 short tons from 8,400 and 7,700 acres, respectively. Reductions from the 1946 crops came to 4.4 percent for peanut, and 29 percent for sunflower seed.

The peanut area was 300 acres larger than in the previous year, but the unit yield dropped from 537 to 367 pounds per acre. The sunflower-seed acreage was almost 5,000 acres smaller than in 1946 and the yield per acre amounted to 596 pounds, compared with 665 the previous year. Southern Rhodesia exports small quantities of sunflower seed and peanut oil.

GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS AND FEEDS

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CANADA REPORTS FAVORABLE WINTER GRAIN CONDITION

Canada's fall-sown grain came through the winter with less than average loss, and was in favorable condition at the end of April, according to a recent report. Winter wheat, ordinarily less than 5 percent of the total wheat acreage, is grown mainly in Ontario. Wheat abandonment as a result of winter-kill in the Province was 64,000 acres or 7 percent of the area sown to fall wheat this season. Acreage remaining for harvest was reported at 844,000 acres, compared with 712,000 acres harvested in 1947.

Fall rye, grown throughout the Prairie Provinces and Ontario, suffered very little winter-kill, the total loss being reported at only 2 percent of the 1,186,000 acres seeded. The 1,162,000 acres remaining for harvest show a substantial gain over the 1947 harvest of 841,000 acres. The bulk of the increase is reported in Saskatchewan where this year's acreage is 798,000 acres, compared with 537,000 acres a year ago. Hay and clover meadows also came through the winter with less loss than reported for the previous year.

The condition of fall acreage at the end of April, expressed in percentage of long-time average yields per acre, shows average or better condition. Fall wheat was reported as 102 percent of the long-time average as compared with 90 percent on April 30, 1947. Fall rye was 100 percent compared with 98 percent a year earlier. Hay and clover condition was 97 percent of average compared with 93 percent in 1947.

MEAT PRODUCTION

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This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural production approved by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. For this report, the Committee was composed of Jseph A. Becker, Chairman, C~ M~ Purves, Elmer A. Reese, Hazel B. Kefauver, Lois B. Bacon, Karen J. Friedmann, and Constance H. Farnworth.